

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /057 W
-----017846 092052Z /21

O R 091827Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1170
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMCONSUL BELIZE
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3780

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: HO, PINT, PINS, PGOV, PDIP, PEPR
SUBJ: EMBASSY POSTURE IN AFTERMATH OF REMOVAL OF CHIEF OF STATE

REF: (A) STATE 200321, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3765

1. GOH ACTIONS CONTINUE TO REFLECT THEIR APPARENT DESIRE FOR AS SMOOTH A TRANSITION AS POSSIBLE. SEVEN MEMBERS OF MELGAR'S CABINET HAVE BEEN RETAINED (SEPTTEL AND FOREIGN MINISTRY EMPHASIZED TO CHIEFS OF MISSION (REF B) THAT GOH REMAINS COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS, SCHEDULED ELECTORAL PROCESS AND PRESS FREEDOM. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO BACK TO DOING BUSINESS NORMALLY, AVOIDING ONLY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT APPEAR THAT WE ARE EMBRACING POLITICALLY THE NEW LEADERS.

2. THE PRESS IS PARTICULARLY INSISTENT IN SEEKING OUR REACTION. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, I WOULD PROPOSE TO STATE (ON AN IF ASKED BASIS), THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON SUCH RECENT CHANGES. I WOULD SAY THAT THE USG IS MOST INTERESTED IN GOH'S CONTINU-
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ING SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS FREEDOM, ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN THESE FIELDS WILL INFLUENCE STRONGLY THE NATURE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.

3. I STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT GENERAL PAZ WILL ASK TO SEE ME SOON. I THINK THAT IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS

OPPORTUNITY TO ELICIT PAZ'S PLEDGE TO ELECTIONS AND OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS SHOULD BE DONE EARLY, I BELIEVE, AND WILL BE SOMETHING TO REMIND HIM OF IF THE GOH GOES ASTRAY. I THEREFORE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL TO SEE GENERAL PAZ OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS WHEN OCCASION ARISES. UNLESS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THAT I SEEK OUT PAZ OR OTHER OFFICIALS, I WILL WAIT TO BE CALLED IN BY THEM.

4. MEANTIME, WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH ROUTINE MISSION CONTACTS AND DOING BUSINESS AS USUAL.

5. WITH RESPECT TO FORMAL RECOGNITION, IN THE ABSENCE OF A REQUEST FROM GOH FOR SUCH RECOGNITION, I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY ACTION IS REQUIRED OF USG. (ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA AND PANAMA HAVE ANNOUNCED ALREADY THAT RELATIONS CONTINUE NORMALLY.)

6. I APPRECIATE SUPPORT AND ADVICE I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FROM DEPARTMENT THESE PAST FEW DAYS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS MESSAGE.
JARAMILLO

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